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2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Implementation of the conclusions and recommendations for follow-on actions of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Summary update to the reports submitted by Austria

1. In follow-up to Austrian reports to the Review Conferences of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to specialized working papers and general oral reports submitted by Austria during meetings of the Preparatory Committee, and with reference to relevant working papers of the European Union and the Vienna Group of Ten, Austria presents the following update to the reports submitted to the second session of the Preparatory Committee in 2013 (NPT/CONF.2015/PC.II/1) as well as the third session of the Preparatory Committee in 2014 (NPT/CONF.2015/PC.III/WP.30) on national activities pursuant to action 20 of the action plan adopted by the 2010 Review Conference.

Nuclear disarmament

2. (2010 Final Document principles and objectives and action 1): In line with Austria's firm commitment to the principles and objectives of nuclear disarmament agreed to in 2010 as well as agreements reached in previous Review Conferences, Austria continued to underscore the importance of the concern expressed in the 2010 Final Document of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and the need to comply at all times with international law and international humanitarian law. Austria continued to work with interested States on joint statements on the humanitarian dimension of nuclear disarmament, the latest version of which is foreseen to be delivered by Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz at the 2015 Review Conference.

3. Austria hosted the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons on 8 and 9 December 2014 (www.hinw14vienna.at). Austria's motivation for hosting this Conference was concern about the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime, in particular the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Among the many challenges the Treaty faces, the credibility deficit in the nuclear disarmament field is particularly damaging. Austria is convinced that unless credible progress on nuclear disarmament and a move away

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from nuclear weapons is achieved, further proliferation will be the inevitable consequence and nuclear dangers and risks will become even greater. Austria considers the humanitarian initiative and, consequently its decision to host the Vienna Conference, as a key implementation activity with regard to article VI and directly mandated by the 2010 principles and objectives, as well as action 1.

4. The Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons was attended by 158 States, a broad spectrum of international organizations from the United Nations system, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, many academics and experts and several hundred representatives of civil society. The Conference was opened by Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Pope Francis addressed the Conference through important statements and messages. Victims of nuclear-weapon explosions gave testimonies of their harrowing experiences. In four sessions, experts from various fields addressed the short- and long-term consequences of nuclear weapons, the impact of nuclear testing, the risk drivers for deliberate or inadvertent nuclear weapons use, scenarios of nuclear weapons use and the associated challenges as well as an overview of the norms under existing international law pertaining to the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons explosions.

5. The scientific facts, the evidence and the discussions which emerged at the Vienna Conference underscored that the humanitarian consequences and risks associated with nuclear weapons are far higher and graver than previously assumed, and that they should thus be at the centre of global efforts related to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

6. Austria attempted to reflect the breadth of views that exist in the international community on the way forward in the Chair's summary, which was presented in her sole responsibility. The Chair's summary contains eight key substantive conclusions that have emerged in the humanitarian initiative of the past three years and the international conferences in Oslo, Nayarit, Mexico, and Vienna.

7. The Vienna Conference thus consolidated the substantive discussions that had taken place at the three Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Norway (March 2013), Mexico (February 2014) and Austria (December 2014) into a set of substantive and strong conclusions with respect to the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, the risks associated with the existence of these weapons and the legal and moral dimension of this weaponry. This was intended to provide key input for future work on nuclear disarmament, including at the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Consequently, Austria, together with a group of like-minded States, submitted a Working Paper to the 2015 Review Conference. The present document contains some of the key conclusions drawn from the scientific contributions made and discussions held at the three conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, as well as from recommendations for the 2015 Review Conference on the Treaty's implementation and the obligations and commitments on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation under the Treaty.

8. Moreover, Austria issued a national pledge at the Vienna Conference that goes beyond the Chair's summary and contains the conclusions that Austria drew from the evidence presented in the course of the humanitarian conferences. Austria subsequently invited all interested States to associate themselves with this pledge in

order to further strengthen the humanitarian arguments and findings and to underscore the expectation of the international community for credible and urgent progress for the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world. Austria submitted a working paper about the Vienna Conference, the findings contained in the Chair's summary and the Austrian pledge to the Review Conference.

9. (Actions 6, 7 and 9): Austria continued to support the revitalization of multilateral processes on nuclear disarmament, such as within the Conference on Disarmament and the United Nations Disarmament Commission. Austria continued at the sixty-eighth and sixty-ninth sessions of the General Assembly its work together with like-mined States on the General Assembly resolution entitled "Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations", which was adopted as resolution 67/56 in 2012.

10. Austria continued to support the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones as an important contribution to the global elimination of nuclear weapons. In this spirit and in implementing action 9 of the 2010 action plan, Austria, together with Switzerland, co-funded a study by the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt entitled "A nuclear-weapon-free zone in Europe: concept — problems — chances" with a view to encouraging a discussion among experts and policymakers on the feasibility of the establishment of such a zone in Europe.

11. (Actions 12-14): Austria regularly promotes the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in political contacts with States that have not yet signed or ratified and has participated in all article XIV conferences as well as conferences organized by the "Group of Friends of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty". Former Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs, Johannes Kyrle, participates actively in the newly established Group of Eminent Persons of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization in order to assist with outreach efforts for the entry into force of the Treaty. Austria also continues to provide significant financial support for the "Science and Technology" conferences that have been organized every two years by the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization since 2009, including the next one in June 2015. Austria considers the increased scientific and academic cooperation of the organization with relevant stakeholders as well as the further development of the civil and scientific benefits of the organization's verification system as very important and significant to ensure broad and continued support for the Treaty and the organization.

12. (Actions 19, 20 and 22): Continued support was extended to the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, in particular with regard to work to be done by the Vienna Office, which was established in 2012 and received substantial financial support. Austria also highly values the indispensable role of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, as evidenced by the excellent research and substantial contributions in the context of the international initiative on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, for which Austria provided financial support.

13. Austria continued its support for and close cooperation with the Vienna Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, established in 2011 in cooperation between the Austrian Foreign Ministry and the James Martin Centre for Non-Proliferation Studies. The Vienna Centre serves as an important think tank and platform for high-level discussion, research and dialogue on nuclear-related issues. It also acts as a catalyst for disarmament and non-proliferation education in a broader sense and

with a global impact. The Vienna Centre has had a significant and positive impact on strengthening the expertise and facilitating substantive engagement between States, civil society and experts in Vienna on a broad range of disarmament- and non-proliferation-related issues, especially with regard to the "Vienna issues".

14. Austria continues to support disarmament and non-proliferation education and training as a particularly valuable, necessary and sustainable contribution to global efforts in this field. In this context, the humanitarian initiative and the organization of the international conferences are particularly significant contributions to raising awareness about the complexity and also the urgency of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation against the background of the risk of devastating humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons explosions. To this end, Austria considers it important to counter and complement the traditional security policy focus of the nuclear weapons discourse with a broader discussion on the consequences, risks, legality and morality of nuclear weapons. Moreover, it is necessary to go beyond the community of arms control experts and to open up the debate on nuclear weapons to other expert constituencies, civil society and the wider public. This is essential to reinforcing the understanding of the taboo against nuclear weapons, as global trends and current geopolitical developments only underscore the importance for the entire international community to focus on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation with an even greater sense of urgency. In addition, Austria co-hosted and/or co-organized several disarmament education events and supported civil society activities in this field.

Non-proliferation

15. Regarding actions 23, 24-29, 32-34, 35-39 and 40-46, Austria would like to refer to the implementation information provided in the national reports submitted to the second session of the Preparatory Committee in 2013 and the third session of the Preparatory Committee in 2014, as well as relevant statements and working papers submitted on behalf of the European Union.

16. (Actions 35 and 36): In fulfilling the responsibility to ensure that nuclear-related exports do not directly or indirectly assist the development of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices and are in full conformity with the objectives and purposes of the Treaty, Austria continued to diligently apply the understandings of the Zangger Committee as well as the guidelines developed by the Nuclear Suppliers Group. Austria welcomes the increasing adherence to export controls and is in the process of examining opportunities offered by this development with a view to strengthening the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

17. In order to strengthen the Nuclear Suppliers Group as an effective arrangement in the field of non-proliferation and export controls, Austria, together with Germany and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, hosted an international workshop entitled "The future of Nuclear Suppliers Group participation and adherence" on 8 and 9 January 2015. The primary topic of the workshop was the impact of widening participation in the Nuclear Suppliers Group, in particular to countries that are not parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, on the non-proliferation and export control regimes. Almost 120 experts registered for the workshop. They came from 39 Nuclear Suppliers Group participating Governments and four States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty not participating in the

Group, as well as from think tanks, institutions, industry and export control arrangements.

Peaceful uses

18. Regarding actions 47 to 64, Austria would like to refer to the implementation information provided in the national reports submitted to the second session of the Preparatory Committee in 2013 and the third session of the Preparatory Committee in 2014, as well as relevant statements and working papers submitted on behalf of the European Union.